(iv) Injecting odorant in the pipeline to help detection of leakage of gas.
(v) Training Ward Officer and Fire Men.
(vi) Coordinating With Fire, Police and Municipal Authorities.

Demand for Petroleum Products

†4135. DR. PRABHA THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment with regard to demand of petroleum products in the country during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the estimated demand of each petroleum product during the current year; and

(c) the details with regard to possibility of hike in prices of petroleum products like LPG, diesel and petrol etc. again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) According to the assessment of oil industry the estimated demand of petroleum products for the current year *i.e.* 2003-04 is as follows :—

(Figures in TMT)*

Product	Demand
LPG	9352
MS	8045
SKO	10664
HSD	37751
ATF	2287
NAPHTHA/NGL	11209
LDO	2138
LUBES/GREASES	1406
FO/LSHS	13068
BITUMEN	3513
OTHERS	7724
ALL PRODUCTS :	107157

(*—Thousand Metric tonne)

(c) Effective 1-4-2002, pricing of all petroleum products, except for PDS kerosene and domestic LPG which are subsidized products, has become market determined.

The oil companies are fixing the prices of petroleum products after taking into consideration the prevalent international oil prices. The variation in future

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

prices of petroleum products would depend upon the variations in the international oil prices.

Agency for Transportation of Crude Oil

4136. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had recently shot down Disinvestment Minister's proposal on restoring nodal agency status to Shipping Corporation of India for transportation of crude oil; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) and (b) Government has decided that preferential treatment for Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) for crude movement and present favoured treatment of TRANSCHART to SCI ships may be continued for 2 years after disinvestment of SCI.

Allocation of Kerosene to Orissa

4137. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the present monthly allocation of kerosene oil to Orissa;

(b) whether any request has been received to enhance monthly allocation of kerosene oil to Orissa; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to allocate minimum 50,000 KL to Orissa as per their requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) Government made monthly kerosene allocation of 25,930 Metric Tonnes (MT) to the State of Orissa for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS) during the first quarter of 2003-2004.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Commercial production of bio-diesel

4138. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMAD KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have since taken a decision for the mass production of bio-diesel;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the soil of Rajasthan and particularly areas around Jaipur is most suitable for the production of bio-diesel;